

REMARKS

Claims 1-74 are in the application. Claims 1, 55-56, and 62-73 are withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claims 2-14 and 35-52 are withdrawn pursuant to an election of species requirement. Thus, Claims 15-34, 53-54, and 57-61 remain for examination.

Claims 1-74 are subject to restriction under 35 USC 121 as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-56, drawn to a digital dye, classified in class 546, subclass 2.

Group II: Claims 57-61 and 74, drawn to an optical switch, classified in class 359, subclass 265.

Group III: Claims 62-73, drawn to a display device, classified in Class 354, subclass 105.

Applicants submit that the grouping is erroneous, based on Applicants' amendments of Claims 2-54 to depend from Claim 57 in their response to the previous Restriction Requirement. Thus, the grouping of digital dyes, optical switches, and display devices should read:

Group I (digital dyes): Claims 1 and 55-56.

Group II (optical switches): Claims 2-54, 57-61, and 74.

Group III (display devices): Claims 62-73.

An attempt on January 16, 2007, to contact the Examiner to point this out to him was unsuccessful.

Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the Group II set of claims (Claims 2-54, 57-61, and 74). Applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more continuation or divisional applications to any of the non-elected claims or similar claims, or with claims to any subject matter disclosed in the present application.

Inasmuch as Claims 2-54 are included within the Group II set of claims and to expedite prosecution, Applicants assume that the Examiner would continue to impose the same election of species requirement on Claims 2-54, regardless of which group they were in. On that assumption, Applicants elect species A – digital dye represented by compounds disclosed in Scheme 2-1 on page 23 of the specification.

Applicants make the election of species with traverse on the basis that the molecular systems employed provide two different colors based on two different oxidation

states of at least one digital dye in the molecular system. Schemes 2-1, 2-2(A), and 2-2(B) are simply examples of such digital dyes.

The claims readable on species B include 57-61, 15-34, and 53-54. Claim 57 is generic to all species.

The application is considered to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to take such action. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number. HOWEVER, ALL WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE DIRECTED TO: IP ADMINISTRATION, LEGAL DEPARTMENT, M/S 35, HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY, P.O. BOX 272400, FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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